

I implore my colleagues, Mr. Speaker, bring H.R. 1070 to the House floor before Mother's Day, in time to give our mothers, our sisters, our daughters the most important gift of all, which is life.

COMMENDING UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA'S BASKETBALL TEAM

(Mr. STEARNS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, although it was Michigan State who celebrated last night, I am very proud of the team from the University of Florida for making it to the NCAA title game. This season, Florida put together an impressive record of 29 and 8, matching the 1994 team for the most victories in the school's history.

I commend coach Billy Donovan for his outstanding work and the players for their perseverance in bringing "Billy ball" to the court. The Gators gave little breathing room and pressed the other team after nearly every basket. This unique style of play demands endurance from the opponent, which the Spartans showed last night.

The University of Florida can take great pride in the talent they fielded with Mike Miller, Brett Nelson, Donnell Harvey, Teddy Dupay, and the other players. I know that the University's President, Dr. Charles Young; the athletic director, Mr. Jeremy Foley; the students; the faculty and the fans of the Gators are proud of the team's accomplishments. I know that I am.

RATIO OF ACCIDENTAL MEDICAL DEATHS TO ACCIDENTAL GUN DEATHS

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, something does not add up, the number of accidental deaths involving guns average 1,500 per year; and the number of accidental deaths caused by doctors, surgeons, and hospitals average 120,000 a year, 120,000 per year. That means the ratio of accidental medical-related deaths to accidental gun deaths is 80 to 1, 80 times more possible of being killed accidentally by a doctor than a gun.

Tell me, Mr. Speaker, should we mandate a 5-day waiting period on vasectomies?

Beam me up. Congress does not need more gun laws; America must enforce the laws that we have.

I yield back all the American lives saved by an honest law-abiding American who just happened to have a gun.

ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART FOR MILITARY MERIT TO ROBERT EUGENE ELLEDGE

(Mr. GARY MILLER of California asked and was given permission to ad-

dress the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GARY MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor an American hero. Last week, I had the opportunity to present Robert Eugene Elledge of Pomona, California with the Order of the Purple Heart for Military Merit service.

On May 10, 1951, as Mr. Elledge and his division began to crawl the hill they were ordered to take, his helmet was cracked into many pieces by enemy fire. After he was placed in an ambulance, he learned that his company had been annihilated, only four survived the Second Chinese Communist Forces Spring Offensive, also known as Battle of Soyang or, as Mr. Elledge recalls it, the May Massacre.

Mr. Speaker, 49 years ago, Mr. Elledge felt that his experience warranted a purple heart, and he began to inquire about when he might receive this honorable award. It seems that the paperwork requesting the medal was lost. Last Friday, 49 years after surviving the May Massacre, tears came to Mr. Elledge's eyes when he received the medal that he waited for so patiently.

The Korean War is often referred to as our "forgotten war." While his paperwork may have been forgotten, the sacrifices that Mr. Elledge made for this country in Korea will always be remembered.

COMMENDING MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

(Ms. KILPATRICK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. KILPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the NCAA, its universities, presidents, and teams for the outstanding season that we witnessed first of the 21st century.

Last night, our Michigan State Spartans won an overwhelming victory; and we applaud them. President McPherson, Coach Izzo, the Flintstones, as well as the entire Michigan State teams, its coaches and university and students, we are proud of you. Go Green. Keep the fight. Let us move on for a positive 21st century.

We are with you, God bless you.

FATHER RICHARD DOERR

(Mr. MCINTOSH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCINTOSH. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to introduce Father Richard Doerr as our guest chaplain today.

After speaking with some of the members of his congregation in Carmel, Indiana, I can tell my colleagues that Father Doerr enjoys the kind of universal adoration that folks like us in Washington can really only dream about.

He is cherished by his congregation because of his memorable sermons, his

positive nature, and his devotion to young adults in Indianapolis. Father Doerr is a priest of the Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana. He is an associate pastor of our Lady of Mt. Carmel Catholic Church and St. Maria Goretti Mission in Carmel, Indiana, a beautiful suburb north of Indianapolis.

He was educated in Indiana. He got his bachelor's degree from Purdue, where, I am told, he was a star in the Glee Club. And he went on to earn his masters degrees in theology and arts at St. Meinrad Seminary in Southern Indiana. He has ministered in St. Louis, in Fishers and was a chaplain at the St. Francis Newman Center on the campus of Ball State in my hometown of Muncie.

Father Doerr has done wonderful work with young adults throughout his career. Together with his brother, Brian, Father Doerr founded the Frassatti Society in Indianapolis, a group of more than 200 young Catholic adults.

The Society's members help each other keep faith in their lives during the transitions from college life, joining the work force and starting a family.

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At those critical junctures, Father Doerr is there to make sure they remember to keep their faith in everything they do, say, and think.

One of my staffers, a young woman from Carmel, attends Father Doerr's mass and described him as captivating in the pulpit. She said that he tells real-life stories and makes it easy for her to apply the lessons of the scripture in her life. Most of all, she said he is funny.

So it is with great pride that we Hoosiers present Father Richard Doerr as today's chaplain. Thank you, Father Doerr, for blessing us in this House today.

REINVENTING COMMON SENSE

(Mr. KINGSTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, under the Gore administration, there has been an all-out effort to reinvent common sense. Under that, the Vice President decided to take on purchasing over at the Pentagon and make the Pentagon act like the private sector.

Well, here is what we got after Mr. Gore was finished with it. They paid \$30 for a 15-cent O-ring gasket; \$714 for an electric bell that was worth only \$47; \$350 for a ball bearing that normally costs \$48; and \$1,236 for fan assemblies worth \$675.

But then again, here is a guy who takes \$300,000 from Buddhist monks, sworn on a vow of poverty, and does not recognize that as a fund-raiser. Perhaps that is why he could not recognize a good deal over at the Pentagon.

ORGAN PROCUREMENT AND
TRANSPLANTATION NETWORK
AMENDMENTS OF 1999

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 454 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 454

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2418) to amend the Public Health Service Act to revise and extend programs relating to organ procurement and transplantation. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Commerce. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. It shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Commerce now printed in the bill. The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read. No amendment to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be in order except those printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution. Each amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against the amendments printed in the report are waived. The Chairman of the Committee of the Whole may: (1) postpone until a time during further consideration in the Committee of the Whole a request for a recorded vote on any amendment; and (2) reduce to five minutes the minimum time for electronic voting on any postponed question that follows another electronic vote without intervening business, provided that the minimum time for electronic voting on the first in any series of questions shall be 15 minutes. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. Any Member may demand a separate vote in the House on any amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole to the bill or to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommend with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LATOURETTE). The gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LINDER) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MOAKLEY), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

Mr. Speaker, this is a fair, structured rule providing for consideration of H.R. 2418, the Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network Amendments. The rule provides for 1 hour of general debate, equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Commerce. It shall be in order to consider as an original bill for purposes of amendment the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Commerce.

No amendment to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be in order, except for those the Committee on Rules has permitted and printed in the report accompanying this resolution. Each amendment one, may be offered only in the order printed in the report; two, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report; three, shall be considered as read; four, shall be debatable for a time specified in the report; five, shall not be subject to amendment; and six, shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question. The rule waives all points of order against these amendments.

Specifically, the Committee on Rules has provided for the consideration of five amendments dealing with a number of important issues. Finally, the rule provides for one motion to recommend with or without instructions, as is the right of the minority Members of the House.

By way of background, HHS Secretary Donna Shalala announced on March 26, 1998, that the Department would publish in the Federal Register a final regulation that would completely overhaul the organ donor system. The current system, run by the private sector nonprofit Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network, is locally based, allowing patients and their families to search in their communities for a potential donor that could help them. Under the new rules, the system would be nationalized by the Federal Government.

This HHS rule is opposed by the vast majority of the transplant community and a congressional moratorium has been in place for almost 2 years. Clearly, Congress in the past has intended that the Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network, comprised of the medical and scientific community, have the power to allocate organs and decide the guidelines for the contribution of organs.

Today, H.R. 2418, the Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network Amendments, would clearly reinforce our intent that the responsibility for developing medical criteria and standards for organ procurement and transplantation rest with the network. This legislation also ensures that this distribution of organs is based so equity and ethics without political control or influence and strengthens patient donor data confidentiality safeguards.

One of the most valuable tools we have to raise public awareness about

the need for organ donors is through the work of volunteers, dedicated to saving the lives of a particular patient waiting for an organ. If this system is nationalized, the work of these volunteers, while valuable, could not be attributed directly to a particular transplant, but to the next person on a list somewhere in the United States.

The immediate effect that an organ donor could have on his or her community is a primary motivating factor when making the decision to become a donor. These rules go too far in moving organ donation away from the local communities and closer to national bureaucracies. We are opposed to letting political appointees make the decisions to allocate organs across the Nation, and we should not allow a Federal department the ability to impact the medical decisions that affect thousands of patients waiting for a second chance at life.

In addition to ending the politicization of this medical process, we also want to encourage Americans to become organ donors. Because the demand for organs for transplantation far exceeds the supply, we should focus our efforts toward encouraging more individuals to become donors and not spreading the already limited supply of organs even thinner under the HHS nationalization plan.

Unfortunately, reports also indicate that HHS has not effectively done anything to increase organ donations. As a result, H.R. 2418 creates a new \$5 million grant program to pay for the travel expenses incurred by living organ donors, authorizes \$2 million in additional grant funds to carry out studies, and demonstration projects to increase organ donations, and requires the network to work actively to increase the supply of donated organs.

Mr. Speaker, I want to commend the chairman of the Committee on Commerce, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BLILEY); and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) for their hard work in crafting this legislation. The product they have crafted would maintain responsible organ transplant policy decision-making within the current network, and this bill should be widely supported by the whole House today.

Mr. Speaker, this rule was unanimously reported by the Committee on Rules yesterday, and I urge my colleagues to support the rule so that we may proceed with debate and consideration of the underlying legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LINDER), my colleague and dear friend, for yielding me the customary half hour. I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the sad truth is there are not enough body organs to go around. If there were enough organs, the question of whether to give them to the sickest person, or the closest person, really would be moot. But